(c) The steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists to the country include launching reassurance campaigns in the overseas markets, inviting travel writers and media persons to visit India to emphasis the safety of tourists in the country and improving tourist facilities and attractions in co-ordination with the State Governments and the private sector.

Losses due to strike by I.C.P.A. pilots

21. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of days for which pilots belonging to I.C.P.A. abstained from work/duty during the year 1992, and in 1993 so far;

(b) what is the number of flights which were cancelled and the consequent loss of revenue to the Indian Airlines;

(c) what are the reasons stated by the I.C.P.A. for such objections by the pilots;

(d) what are the demands of these pilots and what decision Government have taken thereon; and

(e) what preventive steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Pilots represented by Indian Commercial Pilots' Association remained on strike for 46 days from 10.12.92 to 24.1.93.

(b) During the period of strike, Indian Airlines operated a contingency schedule under which only about 25% to 30% of the normal scheduled capacity was offered, resulting in an estimated loss of revenue of Rs. 126.35 crores.

(c) and (d) The reasons/demands of Indian Commercial Pilots' Association as mentioned in their strike notice dated 24th November, 1992 were as under:—

- Reduction in basic pay of Commanders
- Violation of existing awards and settlements regarding career pattern
- Management not meeting its commitments/obligations regarding flying hours
- Creation of fear psychosis by the Management.

The strike was called off unconditionally on 24-01-1993.

(e) Bilateral talks are held by Indian Air lines Management to discuss and resolve various issues raised by the Unions. Unresolved issues, wherever necessary, are referred to the prescribed authorities for conciliation/arbitration. The management, while ameliorating genuine grievances of the employees, is committed to enforcing discipline.

Facilities to air taxi operators

22. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the period of the recent strike of Indian Airlines Pilots, Air Taxi firms were given certain facilities to cope with the air traffic needs of the public;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) how far the Air Taxi services succeeded in coping with the public needs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The tair taxi operators, provided air services on routes, where there was a heavy demand